

WESTERLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
5th DECEMBER 2016
MANOR HALL, COALPIT HEATH

PRESENT:

Councillors: B Taylor (Chair), A Gibbs, A Fay, S Blackmore, J Butler
Officer: Locum Clerk D White

2053. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Crumpton.

2054. Declarations of Interest under The Localism Act 2011

None declared.

2055. Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the parish

Cllr C Young reported:-

Planning issues

Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study

The drop-in at Coalpit Heath Village Hall on Monday 21st November, which I attended, was very busy. The main concerns raised were the transport impact, the fact it is Green Belt land, drainage and the coal mining problems. While I was there a resident told me that they thought a shaft was possibly opening up behind their house on St Anne's Drive. I reported it to the Coal Authority who sent an inspector out the next day. He arranged for fencing to be put round it as a precaution.

At the South Gloucestershire Council meeting on 14th November I asked the Leader about the maps showing potential development areas (dashboards) and he was not aware of them. I have subsequently had a written response that explains that the dashboards are not formally part of the JSP itself, they are part of the evidence base needed to demonstrate that the emerging locations arise from a systematic, consistent, technical assessment. The intention remains for the JSP to identify the broad locations (not specific development allocations) where strategic growth will be directed. Detailed site boundaries/red line allocations will only be undertaken through the Unitary Authorities' respective local plans.

I have invited those who have indicated to me they would like to be put in touch with others interested in campaigning on this issue to a meeting on Tuesday evening.

288 Badminton Road

Due to concerns about the design for the latest application at 288 Badminton Road, in particular the fact its frontage faces on to land not in within the applicant's ownership, I have referred this to the planning committee.

Devolution

On Monday 14th November, South Gloucestershire Council voted by a majority to agree the establishment of the West of England Combined Authority.

South Gloucestershire ward boundary changes

Last Wednesday I attended a briefing with the Local Government Boundary Commission about the review of the South Gloucestershire Council ward boundaries. There is no connection with the Parliamentary boundary review. The review was requested by South Glos., with a view to reducing the number of councillors, but they did say we would soon have required one anyway as the ward sizes have become very unequal. Westerleigh ward is 8% over the target but one was 29% over.

The review will determine the total number of councillors, the total number of wards, the ward boundaries, the number of councillors for each ward and the ward names. There will be two periods of public consultation (late March to early

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June next year, then a consultation on recommendations September to November though there is scope for these dates to change).

They will be aiming for equality of numbers (must be within +/-10% of quota, 5% even better unless there are exceptional reasons). They will take into account development likely to be occupied by 2023 (5 years on from the conclusion of the review in 2018). They will also look at community identity and factors affecting whether local governance is convenient and effective.

They cannot change the external boundaries, names or number of councillors for Parishes. However if a Parish gets divided between two unitary council wards and it's not warded they will create wards. I asked what happens if a Parish is already warded but they want to use a different boundary and they said they could change the boundary between Parish wards in that case. They couldn't change the boundary between Parish wards if it wasn't necessary for their changes to South Gloucestershire Council wards.

They explained how important it is to provide evidence and said a petition would just count as one response.

I believe a briefing was also offered for Parish Councils. If you haven't received the information pack, please let me know.

Winterbourne and Yate International Academies

Both schools within The Ridings Federation, Winterbourne International Academy and Yate International Academy, serve people from this Parish, and the current problems are extremely concerning. With a projected deficit at the end of the academic year of £1m and a lack of leadership capacity, the trustees decided to seek new sponsors in a process known as "re-brokerage". Three expressions of interest were received and there was particular concern about one of the Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) that came forward, Oasis Community Learning, who were interested in taking over Winterbourne International Academy. Greenshaw Trust are interested in taking over Yate and there is also a joint bid from Olympus Academy Trust and Castle School Education Trust. There was also a great deal of concern about the process – lack of transparency, apparent conflicts of interest for various people involved and lack of involvement for parents in the process.

I attended the meetings at both schools held by the Chair of Trustees, Claire Emery, to hear people's concerns and raise questions. I also attended the "Save our School" meeting held at the Zion Church and the peaceful demonstration at the school. I wrote to the Secretary of State for Education, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Schools System and the National Schools Commissioner to raise people's concerns.

In late November it was announced that earlier in the month the Education Funding Agency had issued The Ridings Federation with a Financial Notice to Improve. This requires them to agree with the EFA the details of an independent review of financial management and governance at the Trust, which must then be completed by 3rd February. They then have until 17th February to submit an action plan to meet the recommendations of the review.

On Friday Oasis announced they were withdrawing their bid for Winterbourne International Academy, leaving only the joint OAT/CSET bid on the table. This is clearly not the end of the story, because the Department for Education needs to be satisfied they are the right MATs to resolve the situation and the Financial Notice to Improve is still in place.

Yate Fire Station

Avon Fire and Rescue Service needs to save £5million a year due to cuts in Government funding. They are consulting the public on their proposals for doing this. These include Yate fire station losing its full-time status – instead of it being staffed by crews 24 hours a day, it would only be staffed in the day time with "on-call" firefighters at night. I attended the Yate Town Centre Strategy Group meeting to find out more, as they were doing a presentation there. Their target response time depends on the size of the community. Category 1 is over 50,000 people and has a target time of 8 minutes, Category 2 is 10,000-50,000 with a target time of 10 minutes and Category 3 is less than 10,000 with a target time of 15 minutes. I asked how they were counting this, as Coalpit Heath has about 3,000 people, Frampton Cotterell 7,300 and Winterbourne 9,000. I was told that you have to think about the cover from other fire stations – for example, Frampton Cotterell has a 10 minute response time from Kingswood fire station.

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2056. Councillor Reports – written submissions taken as read with questions taken as necessary

Cllr J Butler made a request for an item on Ivory wood for the next Environment and Leisure meeting agenda

2057. Confirm the minutes of the meeting held 14th November 2016

Proposed by Cllr J Butler, seconded by Cllr S Blackmore and agreed that the minutes be approved and signed.

2058. Correspondence/Communication with Council

1. Letter of gratitude from Pansy Vale resident reference resurfacing work carried out recently – Mr & Mrs Cole
2. Kingswood Miners Exhibition Book Launch – Museum & Heritage Office, SGC
3. Copy of letter to Luke Hall MP – L.Brown

2059. Payment of Accounts

To Whom	Details	Net (£)	Gross (£)	VAT (£)
Staffing	Costs December 2016	2236.35	2236.35	0.00
Head groundsman	Grounds maintenance December 16	865.00	865.00	0.00
Mrs F Thornton	Office expenses – allow/phone	62.70	62.70	0.00
Anderson partnership	Locum clerk services September	1196.20	1196.20	0.00
Glasdon UK ltd	Replacement dog bin	173.07	207.68	34.61
Hands property maintenance	Empty dog/litter bins September	348.00	348.00	0.00
South Glos. Council	Resurfacing pansy vale	11676.30	14011.56	2335.26
SLCC	Membership fees	187.00	187.00	0.00

Proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr A Fay, all in favour, the above payments were approved.

2060. West of England Joint Spatial Plan Consultation

The council considered the previous consultation and the broad typologies.

- Protection of the Green Belt
- Concentration at Bristol Urban Area
- Transport Focused
- A more even spread of development across the sub-region
- New Settlement or (a limited number of expanded settlements).

And the support for one or a combination of both of the following options:

- 1) Protection of the Green Belt.
- 2) Transport Focussed

The 15 broad questions in the new consultation were discussed and in particular the issues raised by the 5 year land supply situation. With regard to the latter the council decided to concentrate its comments on issues relating to the proposed extended settlements in the local area.

The proposal for 1,500 homes in Coalpit Heath, the major issues raised are;

- that this development goes against the 2011 Core Strategy re protection of the Green Belt
- that the proposed distribution of new housing is not shared with the surrounding area / loss of coalescence of the village of Coalpit Heath
- the impact the proposed doubling of the population would have on the current settlement/ residents need for additional infrastructure, schools, health centre etc.,
- the lack of employment in the area, necessitating yet more commuting

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and also included;

- the challenges a new settlement would put on an area with very poor vehicular access – currently served mainly by single track roads, by a difficult road junction etc.,
- this is an area with a high water table and risk of flooding
- the risks posed by closed (unmapped) mines and underground earthworks
- the need for a greatly improved transport infrastructure – Coalpit Heath won't be served by the new metro bus service, the need to re-open the railway station to service increased employment in Yate, the need for cross country public transport services i.e. to Thornbury and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College – not all focused on going into Bristol as it is now

There will be further discussion at the next Joint Parishes (Yate, Sodbury, Dodington and Westerleigh) meeting

2061. Council to consider the current Joint Night Bus 47a contract

This matter will be the focus of a meeting on 30th January 2017. In preparation for that meeting Cllr Paul Hulbert (Dodington Parish Council) has requested the answers to a crucial deciding question.

The current annual contributions are as follows:

Sodbury Town Council £400
Dodington Parish Council £900
Downend & Bromley Heath £900
Frampton Cotterell Parish Council £700
Westerleigh Parish Council £800
Yate Town Council £4,300

First Bus have suggested that the costs to the Parish Councils involved would need to double if the service were to continue. The question posed by Cllr Paul Hulbert is whether the councils involved would be willing to bear a 76% increase in costs?

The previous route change and reduction in services was discussed, along with the current passenger figures, fare costs and benefit to the villages in the Parish of Westerleigh was considered.

Based on their understanding of the current figures supplied Westerleigh Parish Council AGREED UNANIMOUSLY NOT to support the continuance of the Night Bus service.

2062. Items considered urgent by the Chairman (if any)

None arising.

2063. Date of Next Meeting Full Council 9th January 2017 at Manor Hall, Coalpit Heath

Signed:

Date: 9th January 2017